



Frequently Asked Questions **Feral Swine**

What is a Feral Swine?

A Feral swine is a free-ranging pig. Feral swine are considered exotic, nuisance species and cause damage to agricultural lands and the environment. Feral swine can also have negative impacts on wildlife and livestock.

Is it legal to take Feral Swine?

Yes, if you are legally hunting game during an open season (of any type) and see a feral swine you may pursue that animal if you wish, following all the regulations of the open season which you are hunting. (Please note: There is an open season of some species 365 days of the year.) For open seasons and regulations, please view the most current Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide.

What is the new law, House Bill 5822?

The new law does not establish a hunting season on feral swine. House Bill 5822 declares feral swine a nuisance species and allows for the opportunistic take of any free-ranging pig running at large. Under this law, a person with a concealed pistol permit (CPL) or valid hunting license can kill swine running at large on public property; landowners or other authorized persons can kill swine running at large on private property; and local animal control officers and law enforcement can kill swine running at large on either public or private property.

When can I legally shoot a feral swine?

Any time during regular hunting hours and when actively night hunting Raccoon, Opossum, Fox and Coyote. (Please be sure to follow all day and night hunting regulations for the season in which you are hunting game. Refer to the current Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for details.)

What type of hunting license do I need to pursue Feral Swine?

Any type of valid hunting license or a concealed pistol permit is needed on public property. Possession of either of these allows the holder to be in legal possession of the firearm associated with the license or permit on public land.

If I have a CPL do I also need a hunting license?

No, you do not need a hunting license in conjunction with the CPL.

Can I shoot feral swine on private property?

If you are the land owner or have permission of the landowner, you may shoot feral swine on private property at any time. It is not necessary to possess a hunting license or CPL to kill feral swine on private land.

Can I shoot feral swine on Public land?

You must have a valid hunting license (of any kind) or a CPL to shoot feral swine on public land.

What can I use to shoot feral swine?

You can only carry with you the firearm or bow and arrows allowed for that open season in which you are hunting. There are restrictions on the use of high powered rifles during the firearm deer season, November 15th-30th. For a detailed listing of all the regulations, please view the current Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide.

Can I use dogs to pursue swine? If so, when and where?

Yes, except April 15 – July 8 (which is closed to use of dogs).

Can I use bait to lure swine?

No.

Can I shoot swine from a tree stand?

Yes, if you are bow hunting. Also, anyone who is hunting bear, deer, fox or coyote with a firearm may shoot swine from a tree stand.

Can I use an artificial light at night to assist in shooting swine?

Yes, within the night time predator (Raccoon, Opossum, Fox and Coyote) hunting regulations, while engaged in these activities. For a detailed listing of these regulations, please view the current Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide.

When I shoot or see a feral swine, who do I contact?

Reports of kills, sightings and damage cause by feral swine are being collected by the DNRE. Please report any of the above to Julie Rose at 517-336-5030 or Rosej3@michigan.gov. You may also contact MDA 1-800-292-3939 and press "4" for the Animal Industry Division or USDA Wildlife Services at 517-336-1928.

Am I required to submit a harvested swine for disease testing?

No, testing of harvested swine is voluntary. Contact Julie Rose (DNRE) 517-336-5030 or Dave Marks (USDA) 517-336-1928 if you wish to turn in a swine blood sample or swine head for disease testing. Feral swine will be tested for tuberculosis, classic swine fever, brucellosis, pseudorabies, and trichinosis.